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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR REDUCING POWER CONSUMPTION IN A MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVER		
(57) Abstract		
<p>A system for reducing receiver power consumption in communication system having a transmitter (141) and one or more receivers (146) schedules periodic message in "slot". Each receiver is assigned a slot during which it monitors the transmission. The transmitter (141) transmits messages to the receiver only during the assigned slots. The receiver is in an "active state" during its assigned slot. During the "inactive state", which is the time period between successive occurrences of its assigned slot, the receiver may perform any action not requiring coordination with transmitter. At a time during the inactive state shortly before the assigned slot, the receiver applies power to these components and performs initialization. Such initialization may include reacquiring a pilot channel signal to which the receiver may synchronize itself if its timing signal have drifted out of synchronization with those of the transmitter during the preceding inactive state.</p>		

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APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR REDUCING POWER CONSUMPTION IN A MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention relates to mobile communications systems such as cellular telephone systems and, more specifically, to a system for reducing power consumption in a mobile or portable transceiver of such a system.

10 In many communications systems, the transceivers are only sporadically active. For example, a cellular telephone remains idle for significant periods of time when no call is in progress. During such idle periods the cellular telephone consumes substantially the same amount of power as during active periods. However, to ensure that a transceiver 15 receives sporadically transmitted messages, it must continuously monitor a channel. In a digital cellular telephone system, such as that described in U.S. Patent No. 5,056,031 entitled "Method and Apparatus for Controlling Transmission Power in a CDMA Cellular Telephone System" and copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 07/543,496 entitled "System 20 and Method for Generating Signal Waveforms in a CDMA Cellular Telephone System," both assigned to the assignee of the present invention, messages transmitted by a base station may include those for alerting the mobile station to the presence of an incoming call and those for periodically updating system parameters in the mobile station.

25 While a mobile station installed in a vehicle may be powered by the vehicle's electrical system, prolonged use of the mobile station when the vehicle is not operating may drain the vehicle's battery. Furthermore, many mobile stations are portable and powered by an internal battery. Personal Communications Systems (PCS) handsets are almost exclusively 30 battery powered. In any such stations it is desirable to minimize power consumption to increase battery life.

35 A mobile station may consume significant amounts of power by continuously monitoring the channel for incoming messages. The resulting power drain on the battery reduces the time available for actively handling calls. A system that reduces power consumption by periodically monitoring the channel for incoming messages during idle periods would be highly desirable. These problems and deficiencies are clearly felt in the art and are solved by the present invention in the manner described below.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention reduces receiver power consumption in a communication system having a transmitter communicating with one or 5 more remote receivers on a channel. Each receiver periodically enters an "active state" during which it can receive messages on the channel. The transmitter sends one or more messages to each receiver during each successive occurrence of the active state of the receiver. Although we generally refer herein to a single receiver, it is understood that more than 10 one such receiver in a system may be active simultaneously. During the "inactive state" of a receiver, the time period between successive active states, the transmitter does not send any messages to that receiver, although it may send messages to other receivers in the system that are in the active state. In the inactive state, the receiver may perform any action not 15 requiring coordination with the transmitter. The receiver may use the inactive state to reduce its power consumption by removing power from one or more components, such as those components used for monitoring the channel.

The channel is divided in the time dimension into a continuous 20 stream of "slots." The receiver has a "slot cycle," which comprises two or more slots. The receiver is assigned one slot of its slot cycle during which it must monitor the channel. The receiver is generally in the active state only during its assigned slot and in the inactive state during the remainder of its slot cycle. However, if the message itself directs the receiver to perform 25 some further action, it must remain in the active state until it completes the action.

The transmitter and receiver slot timing should be aligned in the time dimension to ensure that transmitted messages are not lost but are received in the assigned slot. In certain embodiments, the transmitter and 30 receiver slot timing may be continuously synchronized. However, in other embodiments, the receiver may operate independently during the inactive state and some timing drift may occur relative to the transmitter. In such embodiments, the receiver may periodically synchronize its slot timing to that of the transmitter.

35 In a digital cellular telephone system, for example, the receiver may acquire and track a pilot signal that the transmitter provides on a separate pilot channel. In the inactive state, the receiver may conserve power by removing power from the pilot signal tracking circuitry during the inactive state. In the inactive state, the receiver may maintain its slot timing using

an internal clock source. A short time before the next occurrence of its assigned slot, the receiver may apply power to this circuitry and reacquire the pilot signal. The receiver may then realign its timing with that of the transmitter by synchronizing it to the pilot signal. In addition to applying 5 power and reacquiring a pilot signal, the receiver may perform any other actions or initializations to prepare it to receive a message at the beginning of its assigned slot.

Each message may also contain a field indicating whether another message is forthcoming. If an additional message is forthcoming, the 10 receiver remains in the active state into the next slot. If there are no additional messages, the receiver may immediately enter the inactive state for the remainder of the slot cycle.

In a system having multiple receivers, each receiver is pseudorandomly assigned a slot in its slot cycle. An identification number 15 uniquely associated with the receiver may be provided to a hash function, which pseudorandomly produces the assigned slot number.

All receivers in the system need not have the same slot cycle. Furthermore, the slot cycle of a receiver may change during operation. For example, the receiver may select a new slot cycle and send a message to the 20 transmitter notifying it of the new slot cycle. Although either the receiver or transmitter may change the slot cycle of the receiver, both must have the slot cycle information.

The foregoing, together with other features and advantages of the present invention, will become more apparent when referring to the 25 following specification, claims, and accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a more complete understanding of our invention, we now refer 30 to the following detailed description of the embodiments illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 illustrates the slotted transmission of messages in an embodiment of the present invention having a transmitter and two receivers.

35 Figures 2a-c illustrate the timing relationship between transmitter slot signals and receiver slot signals at successive points in time;

Figure 3 illustrates an embodiment of the present invention having a message channel and a pilot channel;

Figure 4 illustrates the transition from the inactive state to the active state at the assigned slot of a receiver; and

Figures 5a-b illustrate a message having a sequence number field.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In Fig. 1, a transmitter 10 may send messages to two receivers 12 and 14. Other embodiments may have a greater or lesser number of receivers. In a digital cellular telephone system such as discussed in the above-10 referenced U.S. Patent and copending application, transmitter 10 is disposed in a base station or cell site (not shown) and transmits messages to receivers 12 and 14, disposed in mobile stations (not shown). The mobile stations may be cellular telephones or personal communications system (PCS) handsets.

15 The base station transmits these messages, which may provide the mobile station with an indication of an incoming telephone call with a requirement to take special control actions, or with updated system parameters, on a "paging" channel. The paging channel transmissions are represented by the broken lines in Fig. 1.

20 Receivers 12 and 14 have 32-bit electronic serial numbers (ESN) 16 and 18, respectively. The ESN of each receiver is different from that of all other receivers. In a cellular telephone system, a call to a cellular telephone is routed to a mobile telephone switching office (MTSO, not shown). The MTSO in turn routes the call to a base station within transmitting range of 25 the mobile station. Either the MTSO or the base station includes means for converting the telephone number of the cellular telephone into the mobile station ESN.

30 During a mobile station initialization or "registration" as it is known in the cellular communications art, or at other times as required, receivers 12 and 14 each select a slot cycle index 20 and 22 respectively. Slot cycle indices 20 and 22 determine the length of the slot cycles 24 and 26 of receivers 12 and 14 respectively. A processor in a mobile station may select a slot cycle index using an algorithm or it may use a predetermined value. For example, both slot cycle indices 20 and 22 have the value "1" in Fig. 1. A 35 range of 1-7 is preferred for slot cycle indices 20 and 22. Thus, the maximum slot cycle index, MAX_SSI is "7." A value of "0" may be chosen to indicate that a receiver will continuously monitor the channel, i.e., the slotted communication method of the present invention will be bypassed. In a cellular telephone system, each mobile station transmits the slot cycle index

selected by its receiver to the base station, which requires this information to access the receivers.

Receivers 12 and 14 compute slot cycles 24 and 26, which are $5 \times 2^{(\text{slot cycle index } 20)}$ and $5 \times 2^{(\text{slot cycle index } 22)}$ slots in length respectively.

5 Transmitter 10 generates timing 28, which comprises a stream of periodic slots 30. Similarly, receiver 12 generates timing 32, which comprises a stream of periodic slots 34, and receiver 14 generates timing 36, which comprises a stream of periodic slots 38. Slots 30, 34, and 38 are equal in length and are preferably 200 milliseconds (ms) in length. Thus, using a
10 range of slot cycle indices of 1-7 in the above function yields a range of slot cycles of between 10 and 640 slots in length, which corresponds to a time range of between 2 and 128 seconds using 200 ms slots.

15 Receiver 12 monitors the channel during an assigned slot 40, which occurs once in each slot cycle 24. Receiver 14 monitors the channel during an assigned slot 42, which occurs once in each slot cycle 26. Assigned slots 40 and 42 are pseudorandomly selected to facilitate their even distribution among the slots of a slot cycle having a given length. Although many pseudorandom methods for selecting assigned slots 40 and 42 are suitable, a method using Equations 1 and 2, below, is preferred.

20 Equations 1 and 2 may be used by transmitter 10 and receivers 12 and 14 to determine the periodic points in time, relative to "system time," at which assigned slots 40 and 42 occur. At the beginning of system time, the first slot (slot_0) of each possible slot cycle occurred simultaneously. System time may be the current value of a counter (not shown) in each transmitter
25 10 and receiver 12 and 14. Such a counter (not shown) can run for thousands of years without repeating if it has a sufficiently large number of bits, and can easily be constructed by one skilled in the art. In addition, transmitter 10 may synchronize its counter (not shown) to a universal broadcast time source, such as that produced by the Global Positioning
30 System (GPS). Receivers 12 and 14 synchronize their counters (not shown) to that of transmitter 10, as discussed below.

$$\text{PGSLOT} = 2^{\text{MAX_SSI}} \times ((40503 \times (L \oplus H \oplus D)) \bmod 2^{16}) / 2^{16} \quad (1)$$

35 where: MAX_SSI is the maximum slot cycle index;
L is the least significant 16 bits of the ESN;
H is the most significant 16 bits of the ESN;
D is a number 6 times the least significant 12 bits of the ESN;
N is system time;
40 X represents the largest integer less than or equal to X;

\oplus represents a bitwise exclusive-OR operation; and all other operations are integer arithmetic.

Equation 1 may be solved for PGSLOT, which represents the time at 5 which the assigned slot occurs as measured from the beginning of the slot cycle of maximum length. Equation 2, below, relates this time to system time. Receiver 12 uses ESN 16 to calculate its PGSLOT and receiver 14 uses ESN 18. Note that PGSLOT has a maximum value of $5 \times 2^{\text{SSI_MAX}}$ slots (2 $^{\text{SSI_MAX}}$ seconds). However, receivers 12 and 14 may choose shorter slot 10 cycles, as exemplified by Fig. 1 where both slot cycle 24 and 26 are 10 slots (2 seconds) in length.

Assigned slots 40 and 42 occur periodically within slot cycles 24 and 26, respectively. Equation 2 below may be used to determine when assigned 15 slots 40 and 42 occur relative to system time.

$$(N - \text{PGSLOT}) \bmod (5 \times 2^{\text{SSI}}) = 0 \quad (2)$$

In Equation 2, N is the current slot. As discussed above, the first slot 20 of all possible slot cycles occurs at the beginning of system time, i.e., when N equals zero. Receivers 12 and 14 each substitute slot cycle indices 20 and 22 respectively for SSI in Equation 2. The value of PGSLOT is also unique to 25 each receiver 12 and 14 because it is derived from ESN 16 and 18, respectively. Receivers 12 and 14 each may compute Equation 2 once each slot cycle and, if true, monitor the channel for incoming messages because the current slot is its assigned slot 40 or 42, respectively. Of course, receivers 30 12 and 14 need not compute Equation 2 each slot cycle. Receivers 12 and 14 may compute Equation 2 at some initial point in time and, upon Equation 2 being true, may thereafter monitor the channel periodically at intervals of slot cycle 24 and slot cycle 26.

35 The computations discussed above in reference to mobile station receivers 12 and 14 are also performed by base station transmitter 10. For example, when a caller dials a telephone number associated with a mobile station, the MTSO routes the call to a base station in the vicinity of the mobile station. The base station retrieves the ESN and slot cycle of the mobile station by providing a lookup table with the telephone number. The base station computes the assigned slot in which it must transmit to the mobile station using Equations 1 and 2. When the base station slot timing generates the assigned slot, the transmitter sends a message that indicates the presence of an incoming call to the mobile station.

When mobile station receiver 12, for example, selects slot cycle index 20, it transmits the value selected to the base station on another channel (not shown). The base station acknowledges the selection by transmitting an acknowledgment message to mobile station receiver 12. Transmitter 10 5 begins using the newly selected slot cycle index after transmitting the acknowledgment. However, if receiver 12 does not receive such an acknowledgment because of a transmission error, receiver 12 will continue to use the old slot cycle index. Messages may be lost if transmitter 10 does not compute the assigned slot of receiver 12 using the same slot cycle index 10 that receiver 12 uses to compute its assigned slot. To facilitate recovery from such an error, receiver 12 selects a default slot cycle index of "1" if it does not receive an acknowledgment. A slot cycle index of "1" ensures that an assigned slot as computed by transmitter 10 will coincide with an assigned slot as computed by receiver 12. Actually all that is required is that the 15 receiver uses a slot cycle index less than or equal to that of the transmitter for the slots to line up.

Slot timing 28 of base station transmitter 10 is synchronized to slot timing 32 during transmission of messages to mobile station receiver 12 and to slot timing 36 during transmission of messages to mobile station receiver 20 14. Transmitter 10 synchronizes slot timing 28 to its system time counter (not shown).

The timing relationship between a base station transmitter and a mobile station receiver is shown in Figs. 2a-2d. Figs. 2a-2d represent successive "snapshots" in time and show a portion of the transmitter and 25 receiver signals at these successive points in time. Note that the arrow 72 is simply a fixed point in time that serves as a common reference point for facilitating comparison of the signals throughout Figs. 2a-2d. The signals can be thought of as moving in time from left to right towards arrow 72, as though on conveyor belts.

30 In Fig. 2a, a base station transmitter, such as base station transmitter 10 of Fig. 1, transmits a pilot signal 50, synchronized to the system clock, on a separate pilot channel. Base station transmitter 10 synchronizes transmitter slot signal 52, which has slots 54, 56, and 58, to pilot signal 50. Although pilot signal 50 is shown as having the same period as slots 54, 56, 35 and 58, it may be any type of signal from which such a periodic signal could be derived. Slot 54 has messages 60, 62, 64, and 66. Although at least one message must be transmitted in each assigned slot, the maximum number of messages that may be transmitted in a slot is limited only by the transmission rate and slot length.

Fig. 2a shows the signals at a point in time during which the receiver is in the inactive state. Receiver slot signal 68 is shown in broken lines to represent the inactive state because in the inactive state the receiver may conserve power by removing power from circuitry (not shown) that monitors the channel for messages. It may also remove power from circuitry (not shown) that tracks pilot signal 50. It is emphasized that the receiver may perform any action in the inactive state that does not require coordination with the transmitter.

As shown in Fig. 2a, receiver slot signal 68 may not be precisely aligned with transmitter slot signal 52 because in the inactive state the receiver is not tracking pilot signal 50 to which it could otherwise synchronize slot signal 68. However, the maximum time by which these signals may drift apart is substantially less than one slot.

Slot 70 is the assigned slot of the receiver and may correspond to assigned slot 40 or 42 of Fig. 1. The transmitter will send a message at the point in time when the first message, message 66, reaches arrow 72. The transmitter timing may determine this point by counting slots of the slot cycles from the beginning of system time. For example, slot zero occurred for the first time at the beginning of system time and repeats with a periodicity of the slot cycle. Although the receiver timing may have drifted slightly from the transmitter timing during the preceding inactive state, they are synchronized long before the occurrence of the next slot. Typically the drift is only about 2 microseconds for a receiver using a slot cycle of 2 seconds. Therefore, the receiver can determine the point in time at which it may expect to receive a message, i.e., arrow 72, with a precision well within a single slot. It can thus begin to transition to the active state shortly before this occurrence.

Fig. 2b shows the same signals at a point in time later than that of Fig. 2a. At a point in time between that of Fig. 2a and that of Fig. 2b, the receiver began the transition to the active state and applied power to the circuitry that tracks pilot signal 50. It is preferred that the transition begin after the beginning of slot 74, the slot preceding assigned slot 70, has reached arrow 72. However, the transition may begin at an earlier time. During the transition state, the receiver may apply power to circuitry, perform hardware resets, perform initialization routines, reacquire pilot signal 50, synchronize signals, or perform any action necessary to prepare it to receive messages in assigned slot 70 at arrow 72.

The transition state 80 is shown in Fig. 4 beginning in slot 4, the slot preceding the assigned slot, slot 5. The receiver is in the inactive state 81

before this time. During slot5, the receiver is in the active state 82, and returns to inactive state 84 at the end of slot5. In the absence of conditions discussed below, a receiver is in the active state only during its assigned slot.

Returning to Fig. 2c, which shows the signals at a point in time later than that of Fig. 2b, receiver slot signal 68 is completely synchronized to transmitter slot signal 52. The receiver has reacquired and is tracking pilot signal 50. The receiver is in the active state because it is prepared to receive a message in assigned slot 70 at arrow 72.

At the point in time represented by Fig. 2d, the receiver is receiving message 60. It has already received messages 62, 64, and 66. Each message may have several fields, for example, fields 90, 92, 94, and 96 of message 62. The fields contain the address of the receiver and instructions for the receiver. The field may contain system parameters for use by the receiver. Alternatively, the message field may contain the phone number when the transmitter is "paging" the receiver. The receiver decodes each message and may perform one or more actions according to the values contained in the fields.

Figure 3 shows a block diagram of a system for generating the signals described in Figs. 2a-2d. The system comprises base station transmitter 120 and mobile station receiver 122. A user (not shown) may, for example, initiate a call to the mobile station having receiver 122. In a cellular telephone system, such a call is received at the MTSO (not shown) and includes the telephone number of the mobile station being called. The MTSO routes the call to a base station. The MTSO obtains the mobile station ESN and slot cycle in response to the telephone number of the mobile station. The MTSO then provides the base station with input information 124, which includes the ESN and slot cycle of the mobile station. Information 124 is received by the transmitter processor 126, which may be a microprocessor or other control circuitry. Processor 126 may use the hash function of Equations 1-2 above to obtain the assigned slot of the mobile station.

Transmitter slot signal generator 130 generates an assigned slot signal 129, which may interrupt processor 126 when processor 126 must provide messages 128, i.e., a short time before the assigned slot. Transmitter slot signal generator 130 may have a counter for maintaining a slot count. Alternatively, the count may be maintained by processor 126. Transmitter slot signal generator 130 synchronizes messages 128 to the system clock 138, which is generated by transmitter clock source 140. Pilot signal generator

136 generates pilot signal 134, which is also synchronized to system clock 138. Summer 142 adds pilot signal 134 to synchronized message signal 132 and provides the sum signal 144 to a paging channel transmitter 141. Paging channel transmitter 141 broadcasts the transmitted messages 143.

- 5 In the mobile station receiver 122, paging channel receiver 146 receives transmitted messages 143. In the inactive mode, the power controller 147 may remove power from one or more components, such as receiver 146. Received message signal 150 is provided to receiver slot signal generator 152. In the inactive mode, receiver slot signal generator 152
- 10 maintains the slot count in synchronization with local clock signal 156, which is generated by receiver clock source 158. In the active mode, receiver slot signal generator 152 extracts the messages and pilot signal from received message signal 150 and provides synchronized messages 160 in synchronization with the pilot signal. Synchronized messages 160 are
- 15 provided to processor 162. Processor 162 provides output signals 164 in response to the messages. Signals 164 alert the mobile station to the type of action it must perform. For example, the mobile station may activate a "traffic" channel for conducting subsequent voice communication in response to signals 164 that alert it to the presence of an incoming call.

- 20 Each message may have a MORE_PAGES field, which indicates to the receiver whether an additional message will be transmitted following the current message. A zero in this field indicates that there are no additional messages. If the receiver decodes a zero in the MORE_PAGES field, it may then immediately enter the inactive state without waiting until the end of
- 25 the current slot. If the message has a nonzero value in the MORE_PAGES field, the receiver remains in the active state. If a message having a nonzero value in the MORE_PAGES field is received at the end of the assigned slot, the receiver may remain in the active state into the slot following the assigned slot. It is preferred that the receiver remain in the active state no
- 30 longer than two slots so that the receiver does not waste power by being active. This is in case the message containing a MORE_PAGES field equal to "0" was received in error and discarded.

- 35 In Fig. 2d, message 66 has a nonzero value of "1" in MORE_PAGES field 98. Therefore, the receiver remains in the active state to receive message 64, which has a nonzero value of "1" in MORE_PAGES field 100. The receiver remains in the active state to receive message 62, which has a nonzero value in MORE_PAGES field 96. Similarly, the receiver remains active to receive message 60, which occurs at the end of the assigned slot 70. The receiver remains in the active state after slot 99 reaches arrow 72

because MORE_PAGES field 101 of message 60 has a nonzero value of "1." The receiver receives message 102 at the beginning of slot 99. The receiver may enter the inactive state after receiving message 102 because MORE_PAGES field 104 of message 102 has a value of "0."

5 Messages may include an address field having the ESN of the receiver and one or more action fields instructing the receiver to perform other actions. The receiver performs any actions that occur in messages having the receiver's ESN. Alternatively, the addressing function may be performed by the transmitter sending the phone number. In this case, the
10 receiver performs any actions that occur in messages having a phone number assigned to the receiver. These actions may direct the receiver to remain active to receive additional messages. Since the receiver now receives all slots, these messages can be sent at any time. The actions may direct a receiver to become active for a while and then enter the slotted
15 mode of operation. In Fig. 5a, the receiver (not shown) receives a message 110 during assigned slot 112 of slot cycle "n." Message 110 has an address field 120, which contains an address 122. Message 110 also has an action field 124, which contains an instruction 126. If address 122 corresponds to the ESN of the receiver, the receiver performs instruction 126.

20 Instruction 126 may direct the mobile station to update system parameters or "overhead" information. A message directing the mobile station to update the overhead information may also have one or more fields containing "sequence numbers." The receiver reads the sequence number contained in each such field and stores the value. When the next
25 message containing such a sequence number is received during the next slot cycle, the receiver reads the sequence number in each sequence number field and compares them to the corresponding sequence numbers that were previously stored, usually during the previous slot cycle. If any of the sequence numbers have changed, the receiver provides an indication to the
30 processor in the mobile station with which it is associated to update the overhead information.

 In Fig. 5a, the message has sequence number field 114, which contains a sequence number 128. The receiver stores sequence number 128 in a location corresponding to the sequence number field 114. Fig. 5b represents
35 the next slot cycle, slot cycle "n+1." The receiver receives a message 116 during assigned slot 112, which contains sequence number 130 in sequence number field 118. Sequence number field 118 corresponds to sequence number field 114 of message 110 received during the previous slot cycle. The receiver compares sequence numbers 128 and 130 and, if different, provides

an indication to the processor (not shown) that the mobile station is to remain in the active state. The receiver may then wait for additional messages having the new overhead information or perform any other action as directed by the processor. The receiver need not perform any 5 additional action if the values in corresponding sequence number fields of messages received in successive slot cycles remain unchanged.

Obviously, other embodiments and modifications of the present invention will occur readily to those of ordinary skill in the art in view of these teachings. Therefore, this invention is to be limited only by the 10 following claims, which include all such other embodiments and modifications when viewed in conjunction with the above specification and accompanying drawings.

WE CLAIM:

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for communicating at periodic intervals,
2 comprising:
4 a base station, comprising:
6 a message generator for providing message information;
8 a transmitter message timing generator for generating a stream
10 of periodic slots, least one said slot being an assigned slot;
12 a message transmitter for transmitting said message
14 information on a message channel only during each said assigned slot;
16 at least one remote station, each disposed at a location remote from
18 said base station and corresponding to one said assigned slot, each said
20 remote station comprising:
22 a receiver message timing generator for providing an
24 indication of said assigned slot corresponding to said remote station; and
26 a message receiver for monitoring said message channel only
28 during said assigned slot corresponding to said remote station; and
30 a message extractor for recovering said message information
32 from said assigned slot.

2. The apparatus for communicating at periodic intervals as
described in Claim 1, further comprising:
4 a power controller disposed in each remote station for supplying
6 power to one or more components of said remote station only during said
8 assigned slot corresponding to said remote station.

3. The apparatus for communicating at periodic intervals as
described in Claim 2, wherein said power controller supplies power to said
4 components during a transition period immediately preceding said assigned
6 slot corresponding to said remote station.

4. The apparatus for communicating at periodic intervals as
described in Claim 3, wherein:
4 said base station further comprising a pilot generator for providing a
6 periodic pilot signal in synchronization with said message information and
8 transmitting said pilot signal on a pilot channel; and
10 each said remote station further comprising a pilot channel receiver
12 for acquiring said pilot signal and synchronizing said receiver message
14 timing generator to said acquired pilot signal during said transition period.

5. The apparatus for communicating at periodic intervals as
2 described in Claim 4, wherein said transition period is a portion of said slot
immediately preceding said assigned slot corresponding to said remote
4 station.

6. The apparatus for communicating at periodic intervals as
2 described in Claim 5, wherein said base station is a cell-site and each said
remote station is a cellular telephone.

7. A method for providing periodically coordinated
2 communication in a system having a transmitter and at least one receiver at
a remote location from said transmitter, each said receiver having an active
4 mode, an inactive mode, and a unique identification number, said
transmitter and each said receiver in synchronization with periodic slots,
6 comprising the steps of:

selecting a slot cycle corresponding to each said receiver, said slot cycle
8 being a predetermined number of said slots;

selecting an assigned slot of said slot cycle of each said receiver; and
10 transmitting on a channel at least one message once per slot cycle
during said assigned slot of said receiver and simultaneously monitoring
12 said channel during said assigned slot at said remote location.

8. The method described in Claim 7, further comprising the steps
2 of:

said message having a first field for providing an indication of
4 additional messages;

reading said state of said first field; and
6 transmitting on said channel at least one additional message to said
receiver and simultaneously monitoring said channel at said remote
8 location when said first field indicates additional messages and placing said
receiver in said inactive mode when said first field does not indicate
10 additional messages.

9. The method described in Claim 8, wherein said inactive mode
2 is a low-power mode.

10. The method described in Claim 7, further comprising, before
2 said step of transmitting on a channel at least one message to each said
4 receiver once per slot cycle during said assigned slot of said receiver and
simultaneously monitoring said channel during said assigned slot at said
remote location, the steps of:

6 acquiring a pilot signal at said remote location, said pilot signal
provided by said transmitter and synchronized to said periodic slots of said
8 transmitter; and

10 synchronizing said periodic slots of said receiver to said acquired pilot
signal.

11. The method described in Claim 10, wherein said inactive mode
2 is a low power consumption mode.

12. The method described in Claim 7, further comprising the steps
2 of:

4 said message having a second field for containing an address
corresponding to one said identification number and a third field for
containing an instruction for directing said receiver to perform an action;

6 reading said address from said second field at said remote location;

reading said instruction from said third field at said remote location;

8 performing said action at said remote location if said address
corresponds to said receiver at said remote location, said receiver remaining
10 in said active mode; and

placing said receiver in said inactive mode.

13. The method described in Claim 12, wherein said action
2 comprises updating overhead information.

14. The method described in Claim 7, further comprising the steps
2 of:

4 said message having a fourth field for containing a sequence number;
6 reading said sequence number from said fourth field at said remote
location;

8 comparing said sequence number to a previously-stored sequence
number;

10 performing an action at said remote location when said sequence
number is not equal to said previously-stored sequence number, said
receiver remaining in said active mode;

12 storing said sequence number at said remote location; and
placing said receiver in said inactive mode.

15. The method described in Claim 14, wherein said action
2 comprises updating overhead information.

16. The method described in Claim 7, wherein said assigned slot is
2 selected in response to said identification number.

17. The method described in Claim 16, wherein:
2 said slot cycle beginning at a predetermined time; and
said assigned slot is selected in response to said predetermined time.

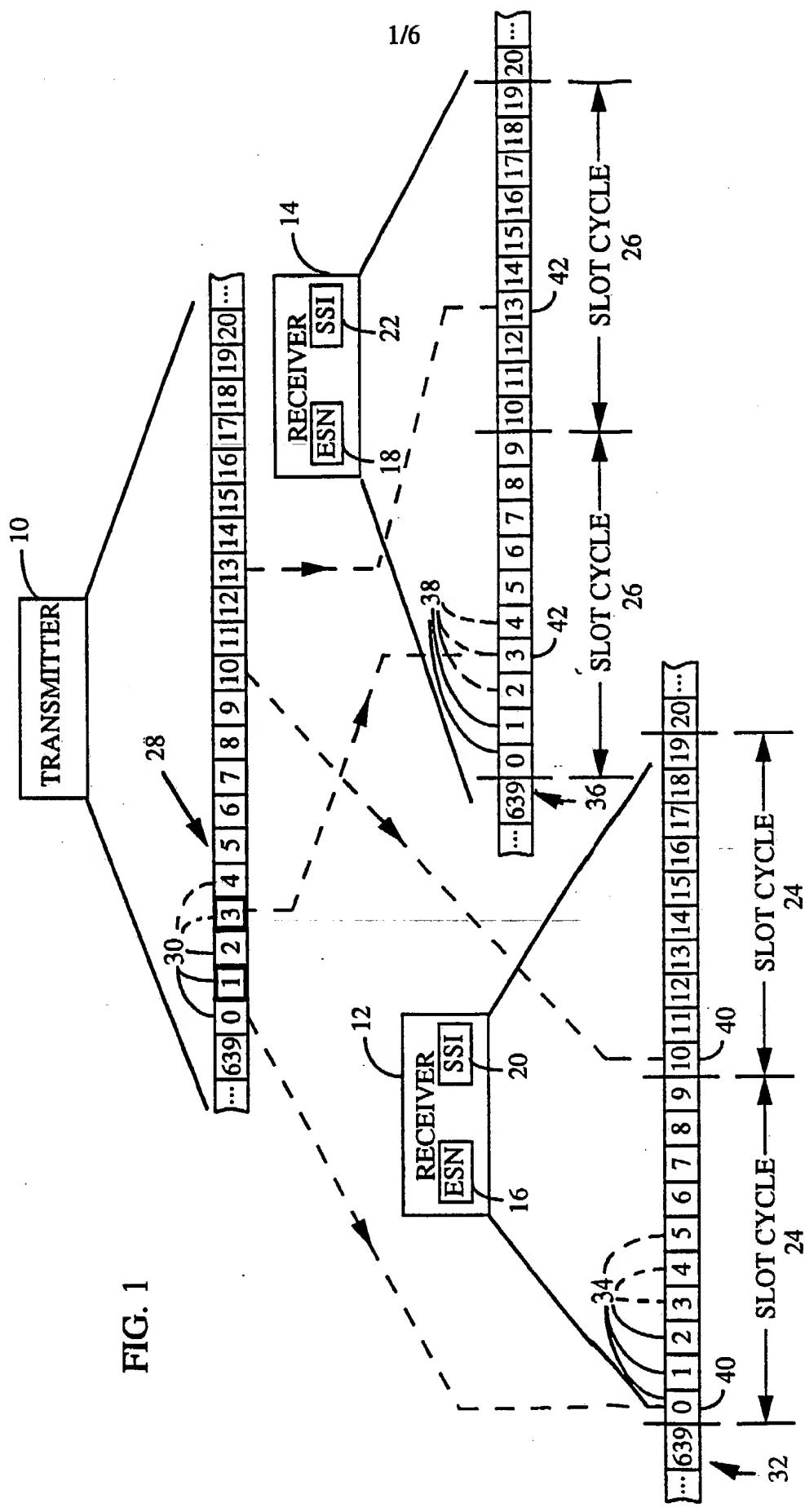
18. The method described in Claim 17, wherein said step of
2 selecting a slot cycle is performed at said remote location.

19. The method described in Claim 18, wherein said step of
2 selecting a slot cycle comprises the steps of:

4 selecting a slot cycle index (SSI) in the range of between 1 and 7; and
computing a slot cycle having 5×2^{SSI} slots.

20. The method described in Claim 19, wherein each said slot is
2 200 milliseconds.

21. The method described in Claim 19, wherein:
2 N being the number of slots elapsed since said predetermined time;
4 said identification number having 32 bits, L being the least significant
4 16 bits of said identification number, H being the most significant 16 bits of
6 said identification number, and D being a number 6 times the least
6 significant 12 bits of said identification number;
8 PGSLOT being the largest integer less than or equal to:
8 $2^7 \times ((40503 \times (L \oplus H \oplus D)) \bmod 2^{16}) / 2^{16}$; and
9 said assigned slot occurring when $(N - PGSLOT) \bmod (5 \times 2^{SSI}) = 0$.



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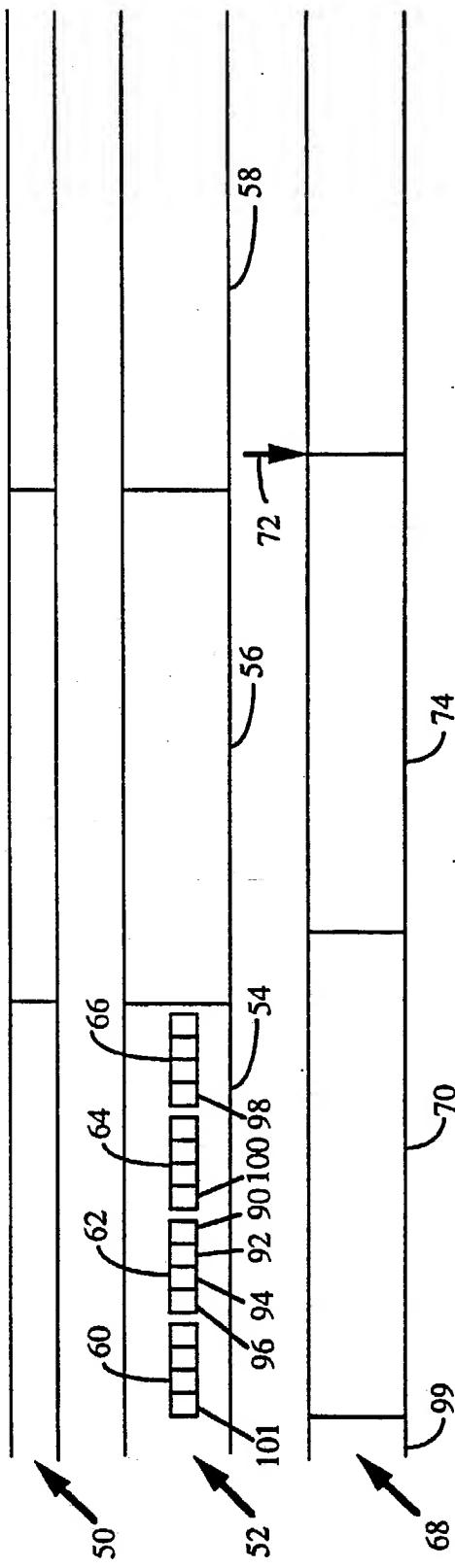


FIG. 2a

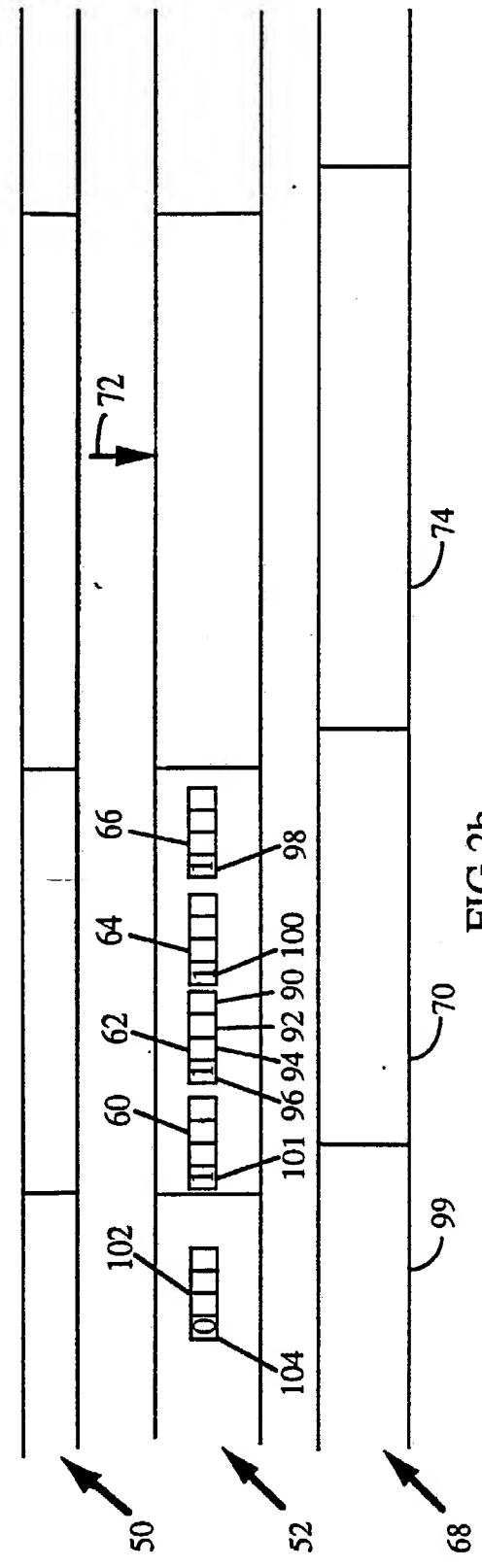
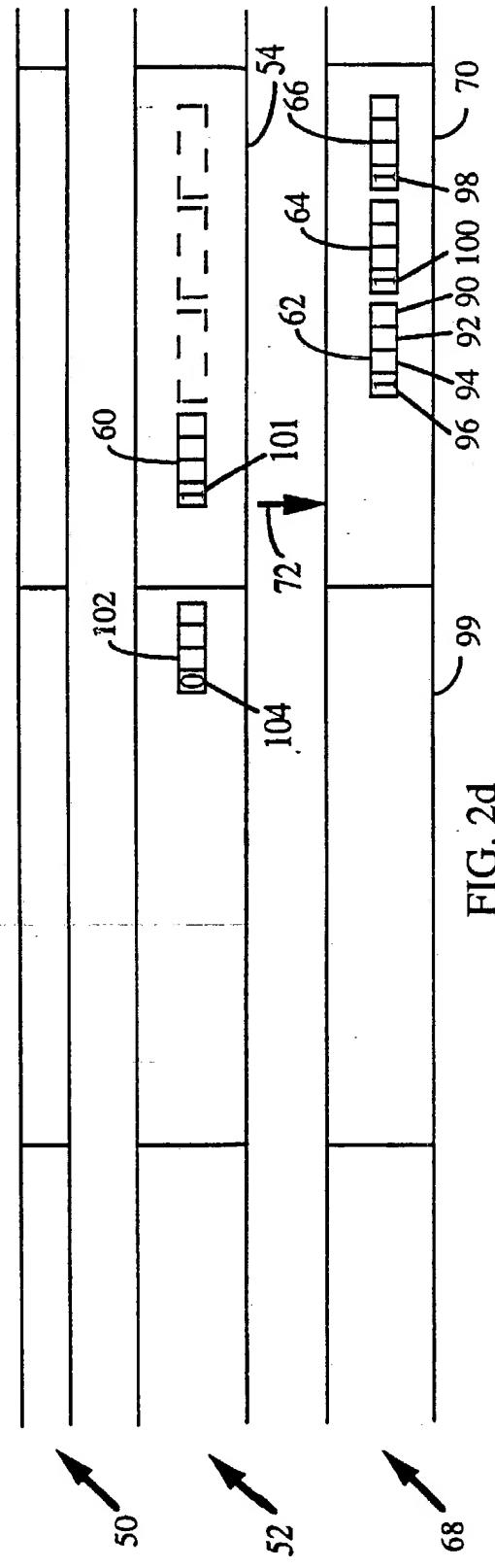
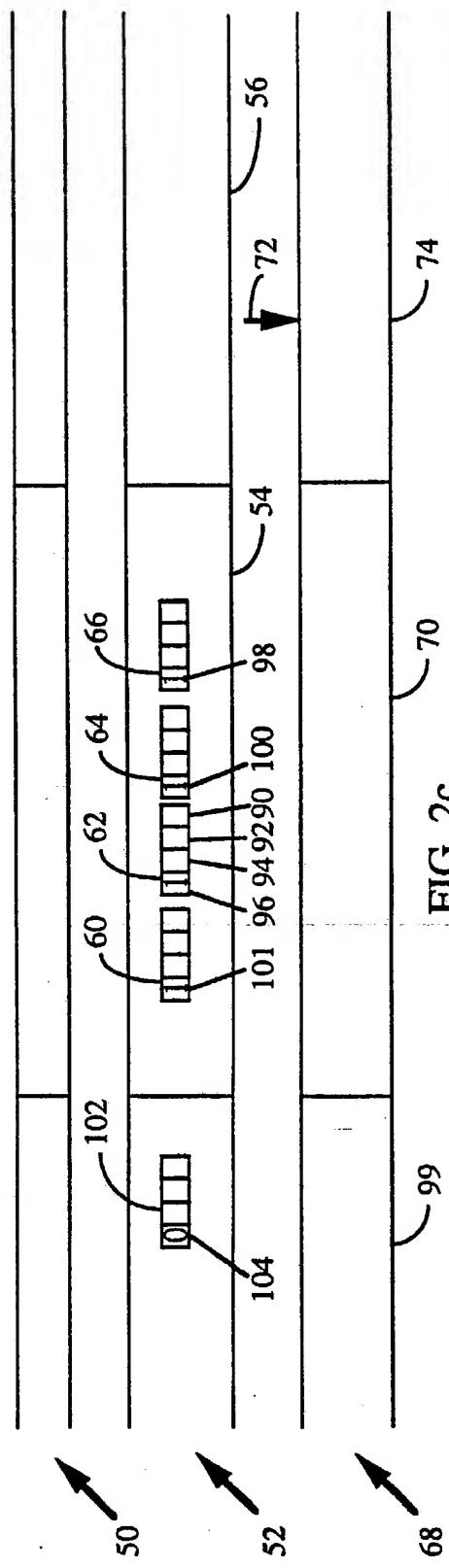


FIG 2b



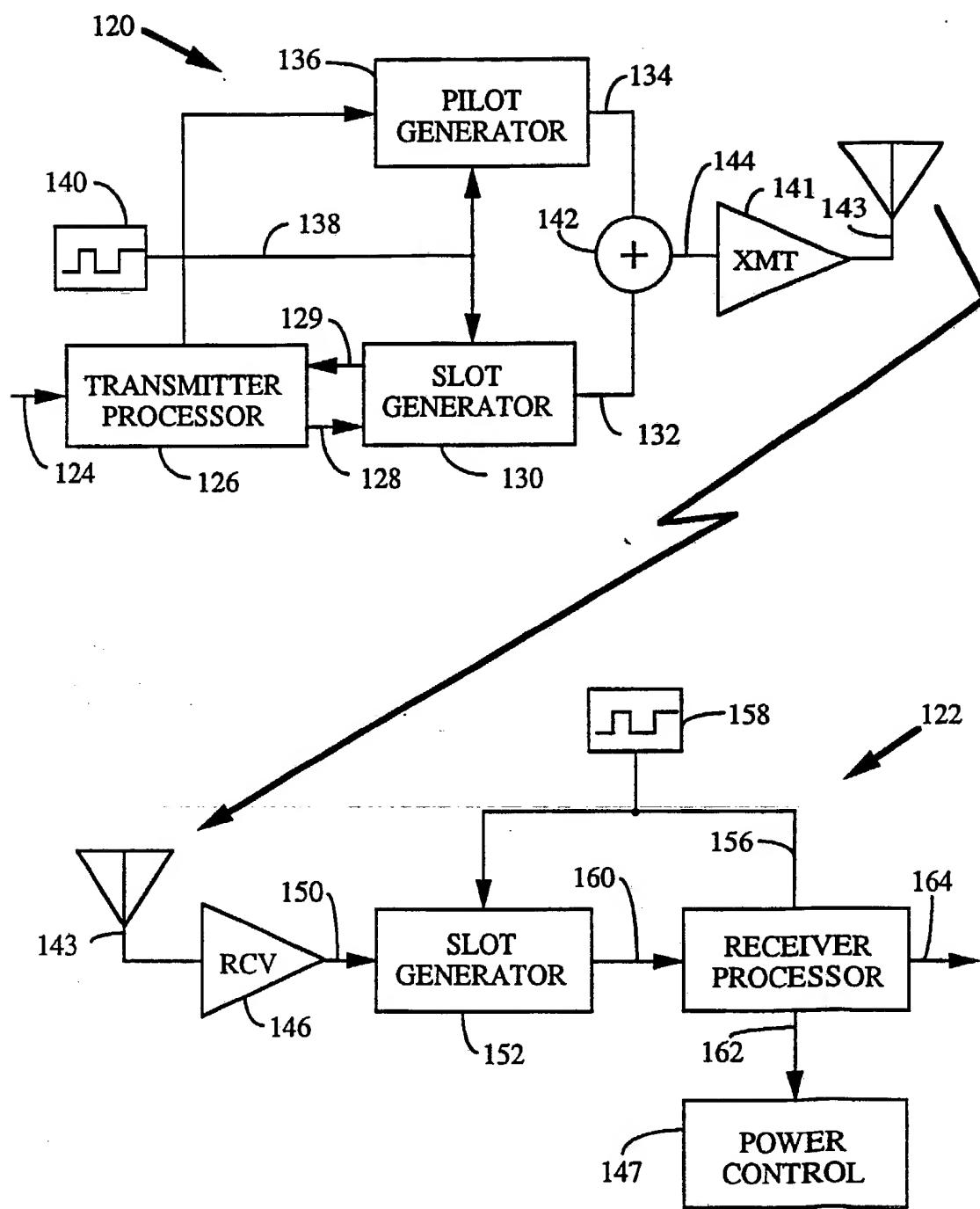


FIG. 3

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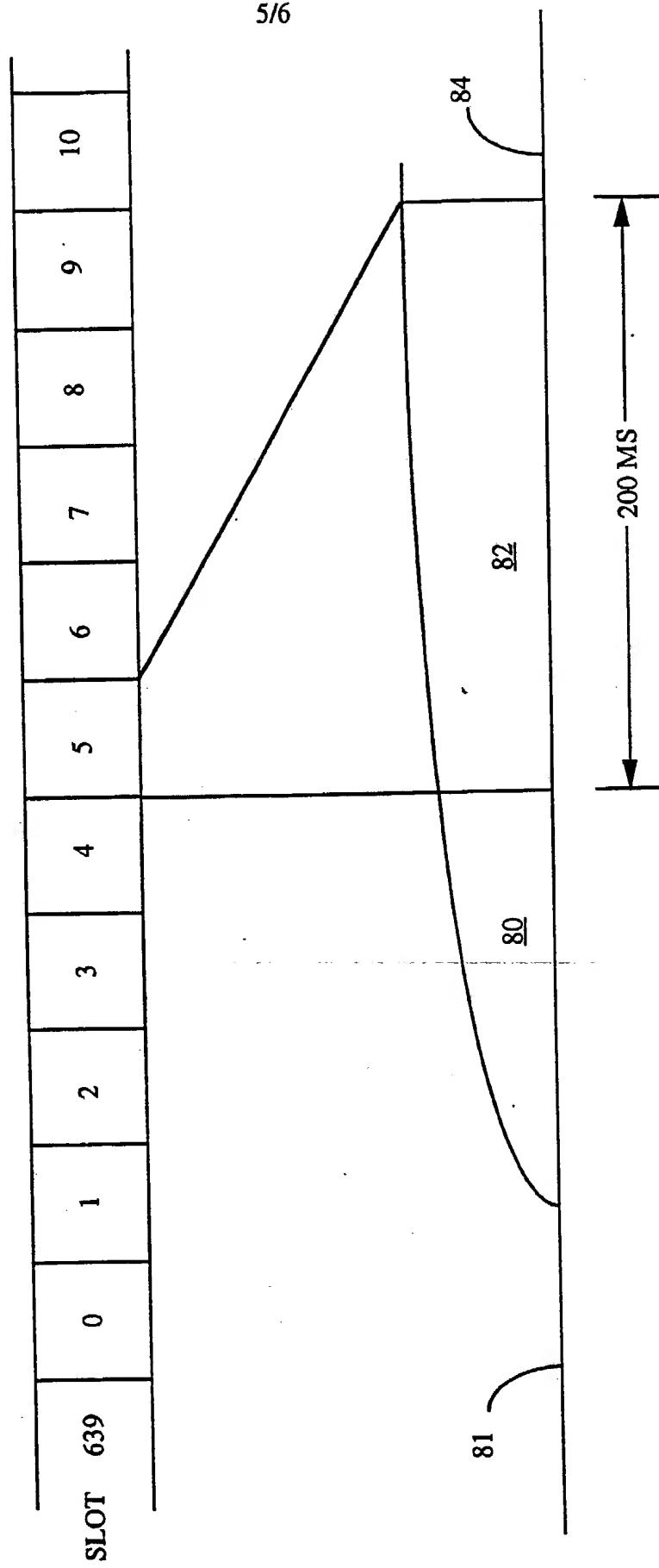


FIG. 4

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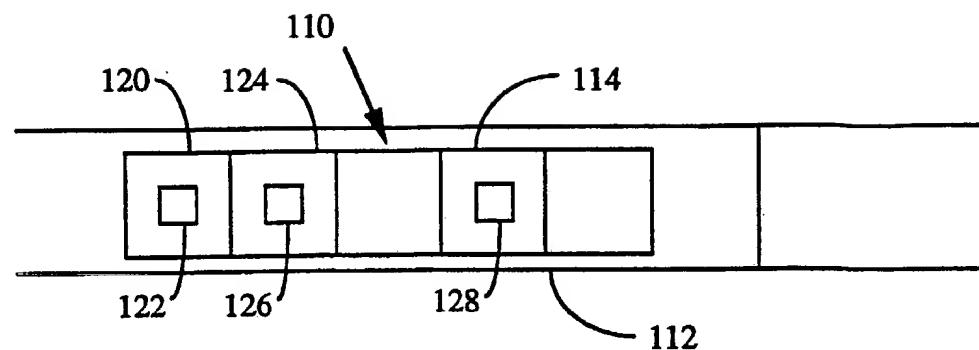


FIG. 5a

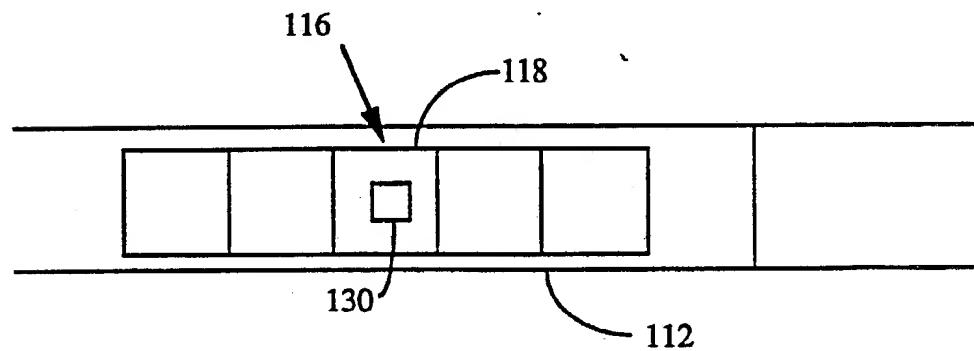


FIG. 5b

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US93/01981

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(5) :H04J 3/16

US CL :370/095.100

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 370/095.300,455/034.100,455/034.300, 455/343 455/038.300, 379/600, 379/630

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

none

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US,A, 5,040,172 (Mano et al.) 13 August 1991 columns (1-6) and figure (1).	1 to 21
Y	US,A, 4,866,709 (West et al.) 12 September 1989 Column (1-4) and figure (1).	1 to 21
A,P	US,A, 5,159,596 (Itoh) 27 October 1992 Columns (1-4).	1 and 7

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

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"&"	document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

12 MAY 1993

Date of mailing of the international search report

22 JUN 1993

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